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Comments: This whole proposition is ridiculous. Prohibiting anchors in Wilderness would create significant safety hazards and is totally unwarranted. Climbing routes are simply trails up steeper terrain. Much more significant impact is created and used in establishing and maintaining trails in Wilderness and will continue to be. Unless you plan to let every bridge rust into oblivion and stop all maintenance including cutting fallen trees off of trails in wilderness then it makes no sense to go after climbing routes.

I am not in favor of micro adjusting the limitations of what can or can't happen within Wilderness. While I agree that the Wilderness regulations as a whole need to be reassessed, I don't feel picking individual parts apart because a bias against a specific activity, is the way to go. If we are going that route let's start with my two main objectives for Capital W Wilderness. Conservation and Preservation. By that I don't mean preserving historical precedence. Let's start with removing grazing from these so called Wilderness areas. Cattle destroy riparian areas, cause significant erosion of trails and are an extremely unpleasant thing to see / smell in the backcountry. Next let's go after horse packing. It is one thing to cheat your way into the backcountry on the back of an animal but another to hire an outfitter to haul you, all of your friends and god knows how much gear into the backcountry where none of it belongs.

The bottom line is leave it alone or fix it completely. This picking and choosing is just another which hunt by which we can extend the corruption of a biased government into one of the few places that should be free and natural.

I know this sounds passionate and maybe a little harsh but as a cyclist that watches Wilderness trails and riparian areas get destroyed by livestock while I cannot take my bike there and literally leave no trace, I feel the whole system is focusing more on not changing anything than on what is or isn't akin to the original goals of preserving something on this planet in it's natural state. I backpack and recreate in the Wilderness often but do not advocate for bikes in the Wilderness. I really just want the term to mean something other than just another antiquated rule.

Back to my original point, Please do not make climbing in the Wilderness into something much more dangerous than it already is. Climbing in the backcountry should be something that can be done as safely as possible and by removing or letting anchors degrade by inhibiting the awesome volunteers who put significant effort into maintaining this equipment, you will not stop folks from climbing in these areas but just increase the risk factor exponentially.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this issue.

Rio Rose